

## **Annual Report of the Sealer of Weights and Measurers**

To protect the citizens of Wellesley from possible fraudulent sales practices, the Sealer of Weights and Measurers is charged with the responsibility of inspecting the accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used for retail trade within the Town, on an annual basis. Devices requiring inspection include; scales, gasoline pumps, fuel oil delivery vehicles housed within the Town of Wellesley, pricing scanners, and bottle return machines.

Inspection responsibilities include testing and inspection of gasoline pumps to ensure accuracy, and continued random inspections to ensure that all signs posted agree with the actual sale price, and the seals attached during the preceding inspection have not been tampered with. Several gasoline pumps tested were found to be slightly out of tolerance, and were adjusted.

Additional responsibilities include inspection and testing of all scales used in retail trade, and random inspections to verify that weight and sale price of commodities are accurate. Scanners employed in retail sales must also be tested to assure 98% accuracy as required by law.

Fuel oil delivery trucks garaged within the Town of Wellesley are tested for accuracy and sealed to prohibit meter tampering. Throughout the year, random field inspections of fuel oil trucks that are delivering fuel oil within the Town are made. Field inspections are conducted as the fuel oil is being delivered to the consumer's home or place of business, to ensure that all vehicles are properly sealed for accuracy, and that no tampering with the metering or vehicle piping systems has occurred. Data contained in fuel oil delivery receipts are analyzed for accuracy to ensure compliance with State Division of Standards requirements.

Within the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, several minor weights and measurers inaccuracies and/or deficiencies were found, some benefiting the consumer, and some benefiting the merchant. All inaccuracies found were promptly corrected and the device re-inspected. Several complaints were received during the year, and prompt investigations were conducted, however, the devices investigated were found to be within tolerance. I am again pleased to report that no deceptive practices, or evidence of fraud has been found, and no tolerance discrepancies observed warranted the issuance of civil violations.

To ensure that consistent inspection and record keeping procedures are followed, Massachusetts General Law requires the Sealer of Weights and Measurers to be certified by the State Division of Standards. Inspection procedures and record-keeping requirements continue to be more complex and demanding than in previous years.

The State Division of Standards has certified all testing equipment employed by the Town of Wellesley as accurate, and all equipment is being properly maintained and is stored in Town Hall.